

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, 5, 6, and 14-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-13, and 21-29 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, 21, 22, 26, and 29 have been amended. Support for claim 1, as amended, can be found throughout the specification, *inter alia*, at page 7, lines 19-24. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to reflect the antecedent basis of claim 1, as amended. Claims 9, 12, 21, 22, 26, and 29 have been amended to recite the ARL4 target. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added.

In the above-mentioned Office Action, the Examiner required restriction in the instant application to one of Groups I to XXXV. In response to that restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect for examination purposes Group III, claims 1-8, drawn to methods for determining whether a substance is an activator or inhibitor of ARL4. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute in one or more divisional applications whatever subject matter is not examined or allowed here.

Applicants traverse the restriction on the basis that all of the claims directed to methods involving a particular target are clearly related and should be examined together. Thus, all method claims relating to MIF are related, all method claims relating to DAD1 are related, etc. Applicants submit that the present invention discloses for the first time that up-regulated ARL4 can be linked with a new specific activation status of macrophages, designated as "hyperactivated status", which discriminates smokers suffering from chronic inflammatory airway disease from healthy smokers and provides therewith the basis for a variety of related methods. Thus, the method of Group III (drawn to determining if a substance is an activator or inhibitor of ARL4) is clearly connected to Group X (drawn to determining the expression level of ARL4 in macrophages) and Group XXIV (drawn to a method of treating an inflammatory disease by administration of an activator of ARL4) and Group XXXI (drawn to a method of treating an inflammatory disease by administration of an inhibitor of ARL4). Thus, Applicants submit that there should not be an undue burden on the Examiner.

An examination on the merits is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below with respect to any questions that may arise regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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